GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:588
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
PRODUCTION EXPORT OF TEA
MONI KUMAR SUBBA;RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate annual tea production in the country;

(b) the percentage of tea of this exported annually;

(c) whether the production and export of tea has declined in the current fiscal year;

(d) if so, the comparative figures of production, domestic consumption and export of tea during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date, alongwith the reasons for decline;

(e) the details of special campaign to boost the production, domestic demand and export of tea and the assistance provided to tea growers during the above period;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaints from abroad regarding export of sub-standard tea to them from India;
(g) if so, the details thereof country-wise; and
(h) the remedial steps taken/being taken to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a)&(b) : The production of tea during the year 1999-2000 was 816.06 mn.kgs out of which 23.58 percent was exported.

(c)&(d) : No Sir. Production and export of tea during the period April to December 2000 registered an increase of 7.37 mn. kgs and 5.40 mn. kgs respectively as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Production, export and domestic consumption of tea during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, are as under :-

(in mn. kgs.)

YEAR	PRODUCTION	EXPORT	ESTIMATED CONSUMPTION@
1997-98	834.88	211.26	597
1998-99	850.25	205.86	615
1999-2000	816.06	192.44	633
2000-2001 (Apr-Dec) (Jan-Dec)	751.67	155.58	653

@ relates to calendar year

(e) : Several steps have been taken by the Govt./Tea Board for increasing production of tea in India so as to meet the domestic requirements and to maintain India`s share in the world tea exports. The steps include financial assistance by Tea Board to the Tea Industry through its various development schemes for encouraging extension planting, replanting, rejuvenation, pruning etc.

The steps taken to boost export of tea include consumer awareness of speciality Indian teas in select markets, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, media campaigns and exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries. With a view to increase domestic demand, Tea Board is engaged in participating in various fairs and exhibitions within the country and also running tea centres at various places wherein liquid tea is served to the public.

(f)to(h) : Yes Sir. Indian Embassy, Tripoli in the month of August 2000 informed the Ministry about supply of un-satisfactory quality of tea to Libyan National Supply Corporation (NASCO) by an Indian Exporter. Tea Board initially obtained views of the Indian exporter or the allegation of supply of sub-standard tea and subsequently issued show cause notice to the exporter for suspension/cancellation of tea Exporter License granted under Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order 1957.The Indian exporter, in reply to the show cause notice has stated that he has not received any complaint directly from NASCO.Tea Board has therefore requested Embassy of India,

Tripoli to obtain and forward a copy of the written complaint, if any, against the exporter by NASCO.